

An aerial photograph of a lush green forested valley. A winding road, possibly a dirt or gravel path, curves through the dense trees from the bottom left towards the center. In the middle ground, a small, dark pond is visible, nestled within the forest. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

Crossroads

Volume 20

2010

Mansfield University

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From the Editor,

Thank you for picking up our magazine. Journalism, in its many forms, is a necessary and beloved aspect of our society. It is our job and responsibility to uphold its ideals. For that reason, we are proud of the work that has gone into these pages.

I thank our staff who worked hard to make this magazine happen. Through everyone's efforts we filled our magazine with stories and photographs and we overcame serious budget shortcomings. It has been my pleasure to work on the *Crossroads*. I hope it is your pleasure to read it.

Derek Witucki
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Special thanks goes to Mansfield University's Communication and Theatre department and our advertisers for making this magazine possible.

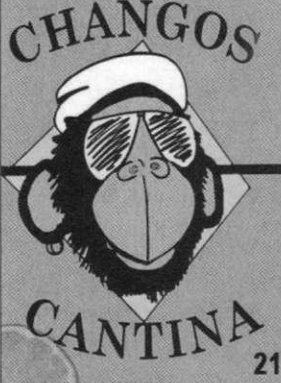
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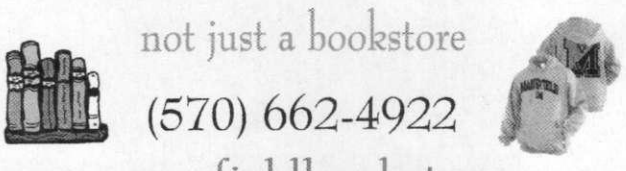
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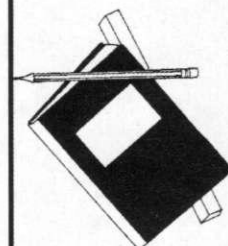
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Out with the old, in with the New

University gives Art, Communication and Theatre a new home

By Mark Doherty

Mansfield University's new Allen Hall is scheduled to be completed on June 15, 2010 at a cost of \$6,915,390.

The new building will house the Art and Communication/Theatre departments. The school newspaper and radio station will remain in Alumni Hall Student Center. Theatre classes will still be in Staughn Hall.

"We are all looking forward to the brand spanking new building," Dr. Lee Wright, Chair of the Communication and Theatre Department, said. "It will be more convenient for us to have our offices where we work."

The new Allen Hall will have classrooms. It will also be convenient for students to have their professors in the building when classes are over.

The new building will also show Mansfield University's commitment to the promotion of visual arts education and art majors. Mansfield offers three art degrees: art education, graphic design and art history.



Mansfield University Public Relations Professor Fordyce A. Allen was once principal of Mansfield State Normal School in July 1864. Allen was best known for his words of wisdom that gave students inspiration.



Photo courtesy of Mansfield University Public Relations The former East Hall was named Allen Hall in 1964. The destruction of Allen Hall will take place this summer. The new building will be open in the fall.

"The Art Department will finally have a building that is dry (no leaking roof) and be handicapped accessible," Martha Whitehouse, Chair of Art Department, said. "Our students will be able to enjoy naturally lit studios that are also well equipped."

There will be five studios for art majors: sculpture (wood & metal), ceramics, painting/drawing, crafts/art education-multipurpose and printmaking/photo. The building will also have a Macintosh lab and a Windows lab, faculty and staff offices, fine arts storage/restoration, a student lounge, and an art gallery.

Hemmler and Camayd was contacted to do a feasibility study in August 2004 for the new building. The initial job conference for the project was on June 16, 2009, which triggered the start of construction.

"The Department of General Services oversees the Construction Management for

the State." Gregory Black, Assistant Director of Facilities Management, Construction and Planning, said.

Black is the Project Manager for the University. His office oversees construction projects. Black asked Lobar out of WilliamSPORT and Schoonover out of Troy for bids. Schoonover won the bids for HVAC and plumbing. The electrical contractor is Tra Electric Inc. out of Watsonstown.

"The old facility was antiquated, therefore we had to build a new one," Jim Harrington, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, said. "The campus will benefit from the new Allen Hall."

After June 15, the university will have 30 days to remove any furnishings from Old Allen into New Allen. After the 30 days, the general contractor will have 60 days to demolish the old Allen Hall. ✱

Future Construction on Mansfield Grounds

Jim Harrington said that a new residence hall will be built by August 2011. The new residence hall will include apartment style housing and suites with private bathrooms, private kitchens and more common space. The place of construction will take place at the tennis court and parking lot this spring.

"This is going to make the campus more beautiful," Harrington said. "Students are going to want to reside here on campus after the construction for the building is done."

The finances have not yet been determined for construction of the new residence hall. Also a name for the building has also not been decided.

Harrington also said Manser Dining Hall is in process of being remodeled to provide more space for students to retrieve their food.

A Beautiful Playground

By Ben Anderton



I don't know how many times I've heard it; "There's nothing to do around here!" I've always marveled at people when they make that statement. Not only would an English teacher rip you to pieces (generalization, people!), but that statement oozes ignorance.

This area of north-central Pennsylvania is known for many things: lumber, coal, farming, and giving two days off school for deer season. Mountains, valleys, rivers and thick forestland are all attributes one might be familiar with when talking about this area. Yep, the nearest mall from Mansfield is a 45 minute drive, but doggonit, we have a Wal-Mart Supercenter! Sure deer and cows probably outnumber people, but we have plenty of fresh air. So although some who are from out of the area may wonder what there is to do around here, the recreational activities are virtually endless. Here are some local hot spots for you to check out when you get bored.

Cowanesque Lake: Cowanesque Lake, along with Hammond Lake, provide the best boating in Tioga County, whether you're in a pleasure boat, canoe, sailboat, or bass boat. Together they offer 2,268 acres of water with 32 miles of shoreline. Five boat launching ramps are available for your use for a nominal launch fee. Hammond Lake can be reached off of Route 287 south of Tioga, and Cowanesque Lake is located on Route 49 just west of Lawrenceville. The two lakes are only about ten miles apart. Hammond Lake also borders some state game lands for the hunting or hiking enthusiast.

There are three recreation

areas on Cowanesque Lake. The South Shore Day Use Area has boat launching, picnicking and swimming facilities. The Lawrence Picnic Area has grills, tables, restrooms and a picnic shelter. The Tompkins Campground has 86 traditional campsites, 16 hike-in sites, a 24-site group camp, a campers' boat launch, and a campers' beach. There are two overlooks and two downstream fishing accesses.

Grand Canyon: The Pine Creek Gorge is often referred to as the Crown Jewel of Pennsylvania (pictured above). Stretching about 60 miles, and with drops of almost 1,500 feet, the canyon is breathtaking. There is a superb trail running from Ansonia to Jersey Shore. This trail is used by hikers, bikers, and a special part of the trail is for those on horseback. This trail was voted by the USA Today as one of the "10 great places to do a bike tour." The trail can also be used in the winter for cross-country skiing. Next to the trail is Pine Creek, a trout stream favored by thousands every season.



There are a few outfitters in the area. Wild Asaph Outfitters is located on Main Street in Wellsboro. This company provides gear for hiking, snowshoeing, rock climbing, and camping. They also have maps of all the hiking trails in the area. Pine Creek Outfitters and Canyon Cruises both offer rentals for rafting, canoeing, kayaking, and biking. They also offer shuttle service to pick you up at certain places along Pine Creek. The ideal rafting season runs from March through May depending on how the water is running. Pine Creek offers Class II-III rapids for people who are experienced or adventurous. The upper Pine is slower and more relaxed; a good place for beginners or those with children.

There are two state parks opposite each other near the north end of the canyon. Leonard Harrison State Park is on the east rim, and Colton Point State Park is on the west. The Turkey Path starts at the top of Leonard Harrison and winds its way down to the gorge. This is a relatively easy hike of only a mile each way. Colton Point has

four miles of trails in the park, but is surrounded by Tioga State Forest Land, so there are many more miles of connecting trails for the experienced hiker. As you cross the county line going south into Lycoming County the surrounding state forest is named Tiadaghton. There are campsites which are kept open from April through October. The canyon is also a good place to spot a bald eagle, as a good number of them nest in the gorge area. This is also a perfect place to view the fall foliage during the month of October as the leaves change.

Hills Creek: One of the most popular recreational sites in Tioga County is Hills Creek State Park (pictured to the right and the bottom of pg. 4). This 407-acre park features a 137-acre lake, and areas for camping, swimming, and picnicking. The lake also offers fishing and boating opportunities, with boat rentals from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Large-mouth bass weighing over eight pounds have been pulled out of Hills Creek, and it is actually on the Bass Masters Tournament rotation.

The swimming area is open from mid-May to mid-September, weather permitting. The park offers almost six miles of trails to be hiked or biked. The campground contains 85 sites, and it is open from the second Friday in April until the third weekend in October. Although no hunting is allowed in the park, Hills Creek borders 13,000 acres of State Game Land that is open to the public for hunting.

State Forest: Pennsylvania State Forest land is known nationwide for the hunting, hiking, and camping that it has to offer. Not only is it open to the public, but there is a lot of it. Tioga State Forest has over 160,000 acres and is all located within Tioga County. State Forest lands in surrounding counties are Tiadaghton (Lycoming), Susquehannock (Potter), Loyalsock (Sullivan & Lycoming), and Sprout (Clinton & Centre). The total State Forest acreage



across Pennsylvania is an incredible 2.1 million acres.

The trails throughout the state land are many. A number of them are tough to find, but there are some that are more popular and well-maintained. A few of these that are nearby are the West Rim Trail of the Canyon which stretches for 30 miles in Tioga State Forest, the Black Forest Trail in Tiadaghton (42 miles), and the Old Loggers Path in Loyalsock (27 miles). If you're up to a real challenge that will last a few days try the Susquehannock Trail which stretches for 85 miles in Potter County.

The Mid-State Trail is for the ultimate diehard. This trail runs from the Maryland state border to the West Rim Trail north of Blackwell. Known as the "wildest trail in Pennsylvania" the Mid-State Trail covers an incredible 319 miles from start to finish.

The DCNR office for Tioga State Forest is located on Route 287 south of Wellsboro. Here you can find information such as camping sites and regulations, hiking trails, or trout streams. Contact them in person or

over the phone for any questions you might have concerning rules pertaining to state forest. They are open Monday – Friday from 8:00 to 4:30, or reach them at (570) 724-2868. (Title photo, Pine Creek Gorge, by J. Stephen Conn: www.flickr.com/people/jstephenconn/ all others are compliments of the Tioga Visitors Bureau.) ✱



University Theatre Productions

Professor Michael Crum and artist Brian Rance achieve greatness through continued collaboration

By Michael Southard

Michael Crum and Brian Rance collaborated a third time this spring for the production of *My Favorite Year*, a lighthearted musical based on the 1982 film of the same name.

Rance specializes in backdrops, sets and props for musical theatre productions. Rance, was raised in Hertfordshire, England where he started attending college at the early age of 15 for art.

After coming to the United States and traveling, Rance settled in to a small town in Missouri where his art studio is located. The studio is made up of a large area where he hangs his backdrops for painting. He has a great deal of work experience which includes working professionally with such entertainers as Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers and Andy Williams along with giant commercial projects for major corporations, which include Silver Dollar City, Circus-Circus Casino in Las Vegas and Cruzan Rum to name a few. It may seem like a big jump for a professional artist to go from such exclusive names to finding himself in a small town like Mansfield, but it may have never happened if it weren't for a chance meeting with Crum.

Crum and Rance met in Branson, Missouri in 2003 while working on a theatre production together. The show that the two worked on was a multimillion dollar production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, with Crum as director and designer of the production for the first time.

Having been involved in the theatre for so long, Crum made connections in the industry. "I met Mike by accident when he and the show's producer hired me as a scenic artist and designer for the show," Rance said.

Rance traveled to Mansfield to work on the production of *Beauty and the Beast* with Crum two years ago. "I came up here as a favor to Crum," Rance said.

Collaborations between Crum and Rance at Mansfield University have been for *Beauty and the Beast*, *Into the Woods*,

and this February on *My Favorite Year*.

"There have been several instances in which student's parents have approached me. The parents have stopped me to give their gratitude for what I have shared with their children by way of the theatre," Rance said.

Rance said that he would return to work with Crum on another production if he was asked to do so. "In the world of art, having an institution of higher education appreciate your work and talent enough to request for you to return to work on additional shows is an honor," Rance said.

"The object of art is to be receptive to all possible forms of inspiration. By emptying my mind I am able to be receptive to new ideas into my work," Rance said.

Like Crum, it seems that once Rance gets involved, he lives and breathes the production at hand. The discipline the two have during their collaborative thinking allows the two of them to be most productive and always put together a great work production.

Rance noted that there are not many artists who can make a living doing something that they enjoy in today's world and he is grateful because he has been able to.

"If you stay neutral to things around that can cloud your perception of things, you are less likely to find yourself obsessing about things that are unimportant," Rance said.

"I believe the reason I have been able to achieve success with my talents is because I am not surrounded by the distractions of mass media and technologies that many are surrounded with in today's society. I do not have a cell phone or a computer to distract me from my ability to work productively," Rance said.

"It is actually an achievement to be able to communicate effectively with a large number of young, bright and energetic students. It is a thrill to come to Mansfield University and work with an accomplished music ensemble," he said.

Rance said he was thrilled to watch the students go from stumbling through their first reading to developing into full

character three weeks later.

Scott Wieland, a student at Mansfield University, worked with Crum and Rance in the past during a production and spoke about his experience with the set designer. "I miss working with the genius that is Brian Rance," Wieland said.

Crum has produced and directed many shows at Mansfield University since he arrived in 1984. The productions have consisted of musicals as well as non-musicals. Crum also worked as technical director for Corning Summer Theatre in the early days. Before coming to Mansfield University, Crum worked for the Sheffield Theater Co. at the 1984 Worlds Expo in New Orleans and Theater La Petite in the French Quarter, New Orleans. Since coming to Mansfield, Crum has designed and directed drama and musicals.

Professor Crum currently teaches courses in technical theatre, design, management, musical theatre and production at Mansfield University.

When the discussion came up about what the next theatre project would be, it appears as though the next collaboration at Mansfield between Crum and Rance will take it back to the beginning and the two will collaborate again on *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

The collaborations between these two individuals are genius. After three recent works together at Mansfield University, the duo will have come full circle by returning to the initial Andrew Lloyd Webber production they worked together on their first time out together.

Mansfield University will be in for a treat once again when Professor Crum starts production up again this fall. ✱

International Student Enjoys College Life in America

By Cristina Byrne

Upon arriving at any university, students are unaware of what to expect in their first year, but imagine coming from a different country altogether. Foreign students deal with language, educational and cultural differences, on top of school work. This experience can lead to a unique kind of personal growth.

The number of international students is growing in the United States. When these international students arrive, many have concerns such as homesickness, which reaches beyond American borders, and language differences that are constant reminders of living in a foreign land. You can't always put your finger on what is different about being here, but you can sense it.

Sophomore, Adam Toth, majors in business administration, and is among the many international students who came to Mansfield. He grew up in Budapest, Hunga-

ry, which is located in the region of central Europe. When I asked Toth how the transition from Budapest to Mansfield was, he said, "culture is totally different, people act differently and they are easier going here. I really miss Hungarian food because it's versatile and it is good quality food. Here I just eat almost the same junk food every day. Life is different too, because I grew up in the city, and life is really slow here."

Three years ago, Toth visited the United States for the first time with his dad. They went to New York City, "[There were] huge cars, wide roads, hamburgers and pizzas everywhere," he said. Before coming to Mansfield University, he transferred from a Junior College in Texas.

"I never learned [to speak] English," Toth said. So how did he learn English? Between the ages of three and four, his mom used to show him Cartoon Network.

"I was watching Cartoon Network all day, back then there wasn't a Hungarian version of Cartoon Network, it was all in English. I listened to music in English that also helped me with [the language] and in elementary school they started to teach English."

Though he admits his grammar is not perfect, he is slowly improving on it. Toth had high hopes for going to a school in the United States. He said that he expected it to be "how movies show college life; Lots of fun, parties and interesting classes."

So were his expectations met? Yes. "All my friends who went to the states told me that college is way



Adam Toth (Right) spending time with his family.

easier than a Hungarian school and it is true," he said. Even though his expectations were met when he came here, he has had some things that he likes most and least about Mansfield University. "The best thing I like about Mansfield is the good education and the least thing is the cold weather. It gets really boring after a while, because you can't go anywhere if you don't have a car."

He also admits that school in Budapest is a lot harder "There is no such thing as multiple choice question tests, you must write essays to every question or you take an oral exam, and there are no online classes," Toth said.

Not only is Adam an international student, but he also takes part in the Mounties Men's Basketball team. "It was random, because I was sending thousands of e-mails to basketball coaches all around the USA, and Mansfield offered me the biggest scholarship; that is the reason I came here," he said.

Adam has been playing basketball since he was ten years old. Since this past season, when he joined the Men's Basketball Team, I asked him if it was different playing here than in Budapest. "It's totally different than European Basketball," he stated. He also admits that he has gotten stronger and a bit tougher since joining the Mountaineers. "I go hard on myself; I shoot [hoops] in the mornings if I'm healthy and when I don't have classes."

Adam's first year here at Mansfield has been a bit tough on him, coming from a different culture and not being able to relate to some of the students, he admits it's hard being an international student. "If someone comes to Europe we try to teach them about our culture, the experiences and slang, but if someone comes to America they expect that he knows everything about America," he said. "It's a lot easier to talk to and relate to international students, we are going through the same thing." ✱

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Natural Gas

Tioga County's economy is at a crossroads

Story and Photos
by Michelle Watts

Natural gas demand, the construction of the Millennium Pipeline, and technical advancement to gas well developments, specifically in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, sparked interest in the possibilities of drilling the Marcellus Shale formation.

Marcellus Shale is black shale named for its proximity to Marcellus, NY. It extends through New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia as part of the Devonian Black Shale Field. Marcellus Shale was considered too deep and tight to be drilled without major funding and massive amounts of equipment. Thanks to new drilling technology, gas is reachable

through a complex system of extracting that begins with a well.

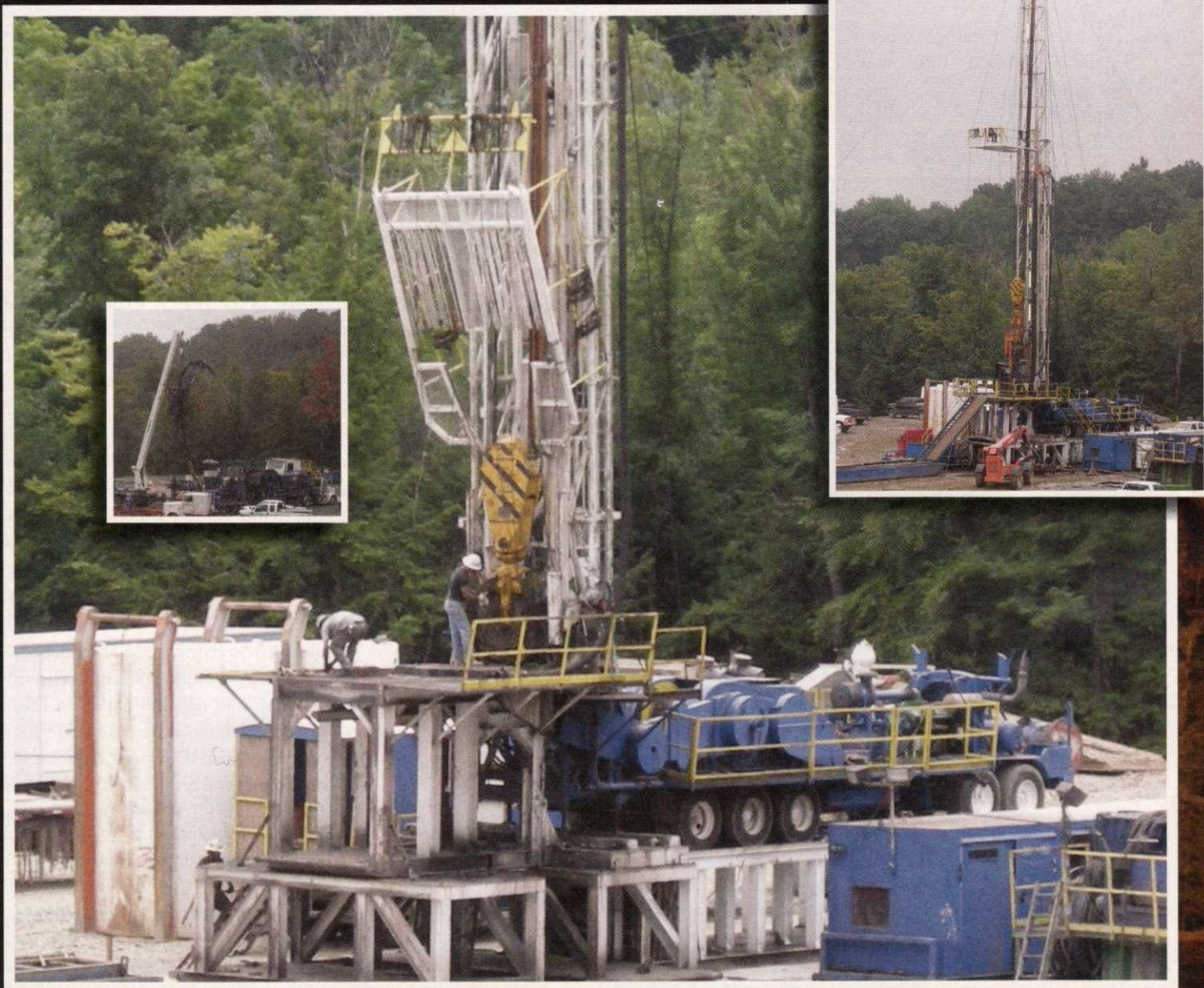
First, energy and land management companies approach potential clients with a leasing contract for the land the companies want to drill. East, Fortuna, Chesapeake and Atlas are a few of the companies operating in the immediate area. Once their land is leased, selected landowners are notified before the gas well installation begins.

Second, the land is cleared and prepared. Teams are sent to clear vegetation. Then, a team begins to level the land by digging up the ground and paving the way for the trucks and crew that will descend

upon the well site.

Equipment will begin to appear until the ground work is laid. Then the teams will put together the equipment to drill the site. Finally the drilling begins.

Drilling is the third step to the process of putting in a gas well. Most of the gas wells have been hydraulically fractured. Water combined with a propping material or a proppant, such as sand, is pumped into the well under high pressure to fracture the rock. Since there are no explosives used in the process the proppant holds the fractures



open allowing gas to flow into the well. Companies will use up to a million gallons to complete one well.

The water is trucked in then dumped into a large hole lined with a tarp to prevent the water from seeping into the ground. Other ingredients are added to make the hydraulic fracturing process more effective. They include but are not limited to; friction reducers, a biocide to prevent bacteria growth, gels to carry the proppant into the fractures, acid, scale inhibitor and surfactant to help prevent corrosion in the pipes.

Wells can be drilled horizontally. That type of well is drilled vertically down to the target depth and, by using special tools, the well is curved and the hole is drilled horizontally for several thousand feet. Maximum contact is made with the rock formation and more gas can be produced from a single well.



Once the well has been drilled to the desired depth and the gas has been released, the wellhead is capped.

In its purest form natural gas is odorless, colorless and shapeless. When burned, it gives off a great deal of energy. Because of this energy, natural gas is in high demand in our society. Without it we would not be able to heat our homes, cook our food or generate electricity.

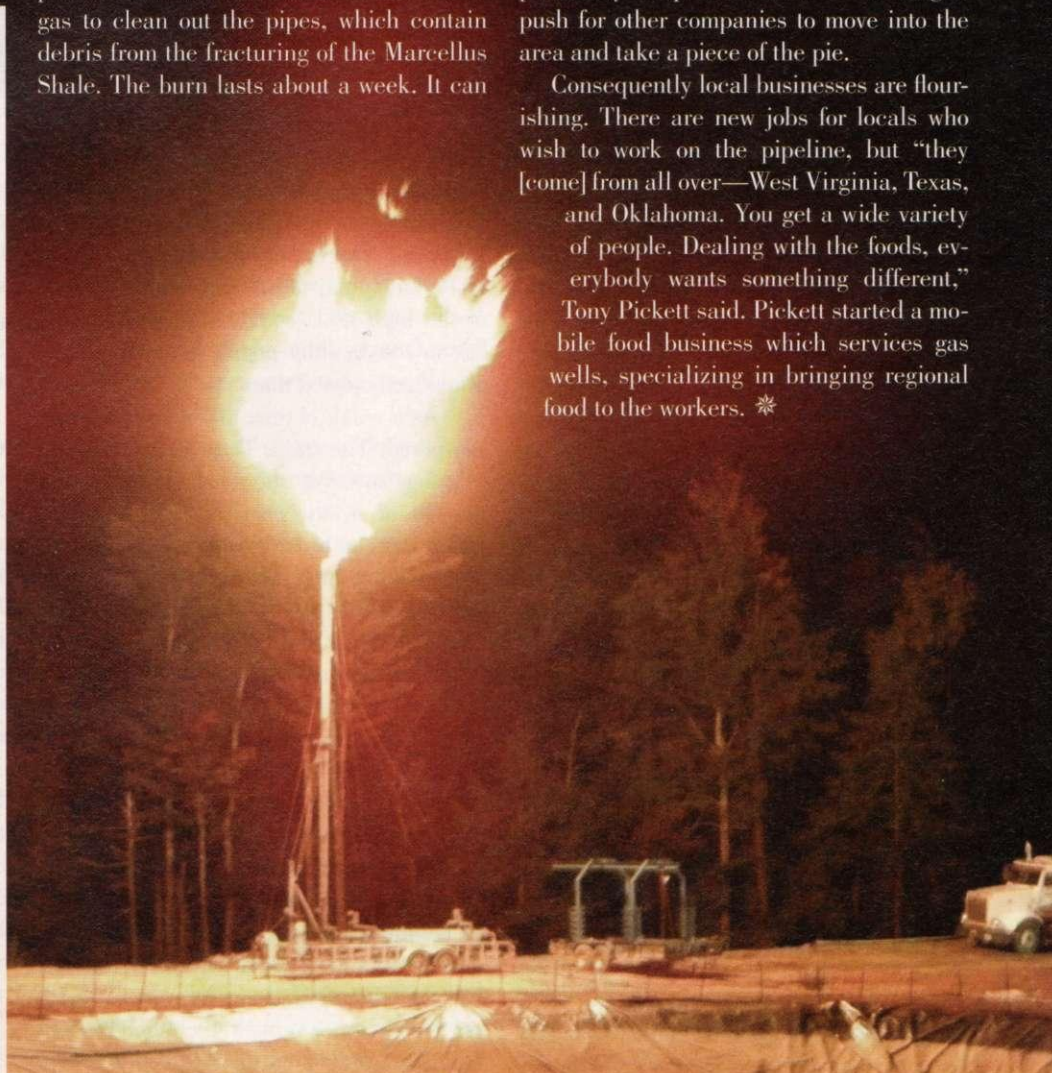
To capture this energy and use it, companies must first burn some of the excess gas to clean out the pipes, which contain debris from the fracturing of the Marcellus Shale. The burn lasts about a week. It can

be seen for miles. Some people have mistaken the burn for town lights.

The burn also pulls contaminated water, used to help with the drilling, out of the well. Wastewater is placed back in the lagoon and later trucked away. Once the water has been extracted, the burning wellhead is recapped, sealing the natural gas in the pipes.

The natural gas to be extracted from Marcellus Shale wells is thought to be more previously suspected. This is creating a push for other companies to move into the area and take a piece of the pie.

Consequently local businesses are flourishing. There are new jobs for locals who wish to work on the pipeline, but "they [come] from all over—West Virginia, Texas, and Oklahoma. You get a wide variety of people. Dealing with the foods, everybody wants something different," Tony Pickett said. Pickett started a mobile food business which services gas wells, specializing in bringing regional food to the workers. ✱



Digging Deep

Blossburg's Coal Mining History

By Mary Gownley

Just off Route 15, along the banks of the Tioga river, lies the sleepy little borough of Blossburg. This rustic village is home to 1700 people, one of them being Keith Lindie. Lindie, who has lived in Blossburg all 87 years of his life, is quite a historian for the town. Having hundreds of videos of the many festivals, parades and other happenings in Blossburg and surrounding areas, Lindie makes sure local history is well documented and preserved.

While the videos are an excellent window into the past of Blossburg, it is Lindie who truly brings its history to life. An animated story teller, Lindie's accounts of the past bring the listener back to the situation like a time machine. Lindie enjoys telling

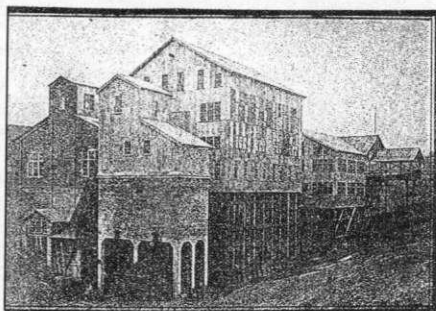
the tales as much as the listener enjoys hearing them, making for a wonderful conversation. One of his favorite subjects is the coal mining history of Blossburg. Having worked in the mine business for more than 20 years, Lindie is an expert on the Blossburg mines, which although dormant, played a big part in the history and the establishment of Blossburg.

Since the coal was discovered in 1792 by immigrants, a supply camp named "Peter's Camp" was set up. "The King of England put a tax on the immigrants of southern PA, especially the PA Dutch, so a lot of them came up here through old 15 where they were planning to migrate up to Canada," explains Lindie. "There was a supply camp called Peters Camp where a lot of them stopped. Eventually Aaron Bloss bought out Peters Camp, and made it a fancier place, called Blossburg, after him. It became well known and a lot of people would stop on their migration."

Aaron Bloss, who is considered the first true settler of Blossburg, is also one of the first people to discover coal in the area. But, he was not the only one. "The Welsh and German immigrants discovered the mines

before the 1800's," states Lindie, who is of Welsh descent. "The immigrants from Wales, a place where there was a lot of mining, knew a lot about coal. They knew it was valuable."

The Welsh were right. The soft coal that was mined in Blossburg had a high energy BTU (British thermal unit), which made it ideal for running trains and other locomotives. Since trains



Old Morris Reproductions and a mine shaft.

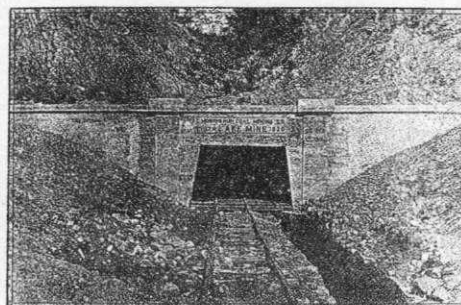
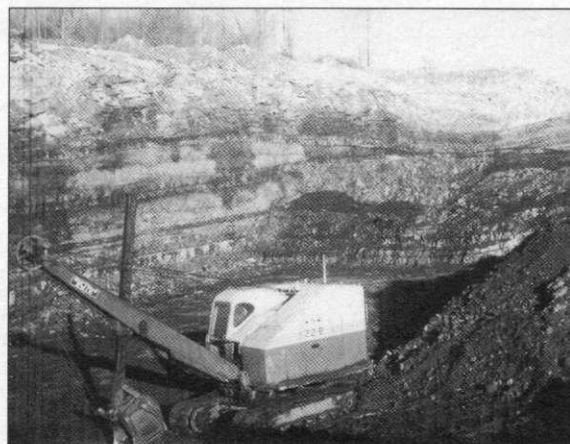


Photo by The Wellsboro Gazette

were the primary mode of transportation in those days, the coal in Blossburg was very valuable." The immigrants eventually went to Philadelphia, to tell the wealthy people of the high BTU coal," Lindie explained. "Soon the wealthy people invested in the mines and opened them up."

As a result of this, the mines grew and prospered. The train, Tioga Central, began shipping most of the coal, about ninety percent of it, to New York. Morris Run, which was run by investors in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area, had the biggest mine in the area, while there were many in Fallbrook and Blossburg. Blossburg had six main veins of coal, the Foot, E, Monkey, Morgan, Kennel, and the two biggest veins Seymour and Bloss. "Most of these veins were three or four feet," Lindie said, "If you had three acres of this coal today you would be a millionaire, plus it was high octane coal."

The coal continued to thrive until the mid 20 century. Morris Run, once a successful mining area in its heyday, was shut down in 1952. By then, most of the coal had run out and what was left was stripped, as were the other veins in the area. The last vein was stripped out in 1985.



These days, trees now stand where the coal veins used to run, but the people of Blossburg have not forgotten their mining history. Every year, starting on the

Wednesday before Memorial Day and ending on that Saturday, Blossburg holds the Coal Festival. "I have been deeply involved with the Coal Festival since the beginning," Lindie said, "It started in 1993, after a year of planning." Planning and preparing for

the Coal Festival is a yearly task, with the coordinators meeting once a month to organizing everything, but the hard work pays off. "It was just recognized as a State festival, with a big thanks to Matt Baker, for making that happen," he said proudly.

Lindie also wants, and is trying, to set up a mining history museum on Island Park, where the Coal Festival is held annually. "I know many people, including myself, have many things (relating to) the coal mines that they would like to add to the museum." Lindie could easily have a museum of just his own collections, which include a coal car, William B. Wilson's inauguration hat, countless videos with miners, as well as hundreds of pictures.

Keith Lindie, as well as much of Blossburg's residents, take great pride for their mining history. This pride, collectively shared by the residents, runs deeper than the coal veins that once ran beneath their town. ✱

S.O.S. Save a School, Save a Community

By Derek Witucki

Save Our School (S.O.S.) began as an e-mail and quickly formed into a response group of parents, community members and business owners in response to a proposed plan to close Blossburg's North Penn High School and start busing students to Liberty and Mansfield. However, S.O.S. is about more than saving students from long bus trips, it is about saving a community and keeping a town together.

When the Southern Tioga School District began considering closing North Penn High School in the face of shrinking class sizes, looming construction and renovation costs, and a shrinking budget, parents Sara Herbst and Jill Nickerson set out to rally their town.

"It started as a hope to get a few friends together to start an action team and it grew overnight into a large group of people who were willing to devote a lot of time and energy to save our school," Herbst said.

"We started the organization to get the community rallied up and make them aware of what was happening with the school board," Nickerson said.

"We really wanted to raise awareness before it was too late," Herbst said. By pulling together community resources and collecting donations, S.O.S. mailed postcards, held fundraisers, made t-shirts, ran radio ads and organized a parade. "You name it, we did it—and spent a lot of money doing so," Herbst said.

"We met almost every Sunday for weeks planning our 'attacks' on the Southern Tioga School District board meetings," Herbst said.

"We set up monthly themes so we could target, first, community awareness. The second time we targeted economics of the community," Nickerson said. More quickly than they'd expected, S.O.S. gained sympathy among the community and school board members.

"We had people up in arms who didn't even have kids in school because they didn't want us to disappear on the map like Fallbrook did. They enjoy being able to walk to their local bank, their grocery store, to get their library books and get their hair cut. They love their tight-knit community that

bonds together over spaghetti dinners to raise money for the family who lost everything in a house fire or whose family member is fighting a horrible disease," Herbst said.

The fear is that Blossburg, like its neighbor-turned-ghost-town Fallbrook, would disappear if the school left. S.O.S. believes that once the school goes, so does the incentive to live, shop and work there.

With that linchpin pulled, Blossburg's main strip would see businesses closing and area property value shrinking, a scenario eerily similar to the fate of Fallbrook, Pa. which disappeared after coal mining left the area.

"[The school is] the heart of our community," Nickerson said. "People come to Blossburg and then they shop in Blossburg when they're working or dropping their kids off for school."

Because of that, Herbst said, the town has a unique "sense of community that no other community has around here."

The Blossburg community has banded together over their school and for their children several times over the past few years. The community has raised money to buy new bleachers when their football program was in danger of being cancelled and built a new playground when the old one became unsafe, each time raising an excess of \$100,000.

"Our community strives to do better, to be welcoming, to keep residents and to be good neighbors," Herbst said.

"We were concerned about Blossburg as a community: we were concerned with the transition for the kids, socially, emotionally, but also academically; [and we were concerned about] our sports and our identity. The Panthers are important to a lot of people. It would have brought the spirit of the area down," Nickerson said.

S.O.S. came to the first school board meeting with speakers and t-shirts supporting their school and asking the board members to leave North Penn open. "The audience members spoke for almost two hours. It was inspiring. Everyone was well mannered and polite. Entire sports teams spoke; individuals spoke; students, parents,

alumni, teachers, you name it," Herbst said.

People came to the next board meeting in protest. They carried signs reading "I shop in," "I eat in," and "I bank in Blossburg."

The school board held a special meeting on January 18, 2010, where S.O.S. members expected to continue a back and forth that could last for months. "A lot went on that night, but in the end, a motion was made to keep North Penn open. It passed," Herbst said.

The North Penn School District rejected "Option three," to close the school, in favor of renovation.

"We weren't prepared for that," Nickerson said.

"The auditorium in Blossburg filled with whoops and hollers. I have goose bumps just telling you about it now. It was the most amazing thing for me to witness and be a part of. People were literally crying tears of joy. Text messages were flying everywhere. It was one of the most amazing moments of my life," Herbst said.

S.O.S. convinced the school board to keep North Penn open by bringing in experts and explaining information that showed that Blossburg—along with all nearby areas—is on the cusp of an economic revival.

The natural gas companies (see the article on pg. 8) are coming into places like Blossburg. They need workers and with those workers come families; families who will call Blossburg home.

So S.O.S. won. Job's over, right? Not true, there is still a lot work to be done, Herbst said.

"The [school board members] were hesitant to agree to keep North Penn since 'our students are not receiving the same quality of education as the other schools in the district.'

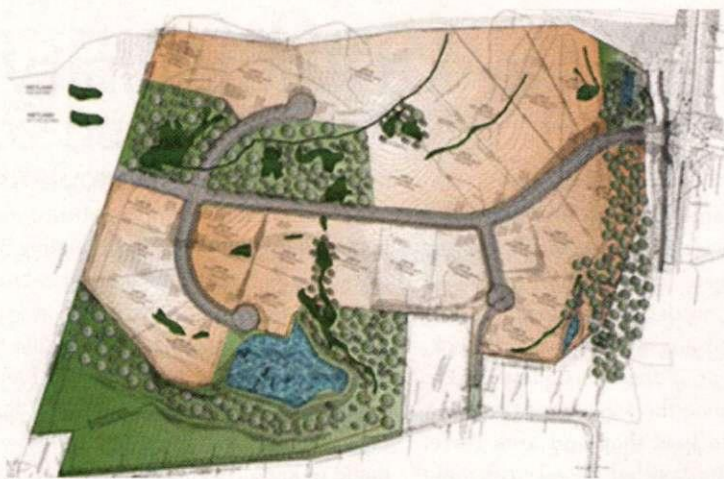
They do not have the opportunity to have the advancement classes that the other schools have. We will fight for that change. We will be the watchdog for our school," Herbst said.

S.O.S. will become a Parent-Teacher Association for North Penn and a parent organization for both the Blossburg elementary and high school PTA groups. They will continue to lead the work needed to give their school the resources needed to provide students with a quality education. ✱

"Our community strives to do better, to be welcoming, to keep residents and to be good neighbors."

- Sara Herbst





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Local economy primed for

BOOM

By David VanLoon

When a group of local business men and women combined efforts to bring a small business park to the Mansfield area, they were banking on an increased volume of traffic through the area due to the future completion of the interstate 99 corridor. Their gamble paid off big when just months after the park's completion, the area began to emerge as an energy giant.

Betterment Organization of Mansfield (BOOM) is group of leaders in the community who are committed to the development and growth of Mansfield and the surrounding areas. With the aid of a grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the organization purchased an 84-acre farm from Ed Dorsett in 2007. The property lies in the western part of the Mansfield borough at the high-visibility intersection of route 6 and route 15 (future I-99). The land was developed into 24 lots ranging from one to eight acres, each with access to a paved road and tied into electric, gas, and water lines.

"When we started this process we had no idea that the gas industry would evolve in the way that it has," BOOM's President, Kathy Telep said. "It was just a foresight of Alex Natolini and Tom Freeman. BOOM has always helped out with small businesses in the area to help them with loans and getting established, but they wanted to go one step higher by doing this with the business park. Everything fell into place, each hurdle that we faced, every obstacle that we came up against—there was always an answer."

The first of the 24 lots was purchased by Microtel Inns & Suites, a chain franchise that specializes in new construction. The company currently has hotels in 46 states and five international countries including Argentina, Canada, Honduras, Mexico and the Philippines. Microtel is the only lot that has broken ground in the business park and

"Today in the northern tier area we have probably the greatest economic opportunity that's ever been available in Pennsylvania."

-Joe Grace

is rapidly nearing completion, capitalizing on the sudden demand for housing caused by the birth of the gas industry in the northern tier.

The remaining lots were purchased by J. Grace Co., a family owned development business. Owner, Joseph Grace has built, owned, and operated four hotels and several shopping centers, in addition to more than 1,000 houses.

"We have an intent to purchase the 23 remaining lots from Joe Grace," Telep said. "He is in his due diligence period. He was given a period to evaluate all of the informa-

tion that is available on the park and he is still within that. As far as when that will be final, I would say soon, but we don't have a date yet. We don't know exactly what types of industry he plans to bring in, he is a business developer, but the exact details remain with him."

Grace is working through a Philadelphia-based Real Estate company to bring in businesses that would fit within the guidelines of the park. The remaining sites will likely be filled by restaurants, motels, and other businesses related to the current Marcellus Shale development.

"Today in the northern tier area we have probably the greatest economic opportunity that's ever been available in Pennsylvania," Grace said. "It's bigger than the logger industry was in the 1800's, it's greater than manufacturing was throughout the early part of the last century, and it's cleaner and better than coal, economically it will be bigger."

Because of the abundant supply and ease of access, thanks to cutting-edge technology, Grace believes that the local resource has the capability to greatly surpass the Oil boom of Texas, bringing the final product to market at a fraction of the price.

"Marcellus shale is the greatest shale plate in the world right now," Grace said. "The United States—if they so wished politically—if they really pushed the Marcellus and got behind it, the United States could almost become energy independent. The economic opportunities are limitless."

The trick, says Grace is taking advantage of the sudden influx of dollars to the area, an area which has not been known for its prosperity.

"The value of the Marcellus will reach trillions and trillions of dollars," Grace said. "Within two and a half years, in the northern tier of Pennsylvania, the royalty incomes people will get will out-pace ordinary incomes. A year after that it will double, and a year after that it will double, the next year it will double again. You're talking about a level of per capita and per family income that will equate any place in Pennsylvania. That's the type of opportunity that's coming to this area. That's money and economic flow that could stay here in the northern tier if Mansfield's young people figure out a way to create businesses to keep that money here. People will have giant disposable incomes." ✱



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The Carontawan

Mansfield University Students Attempt to Revive Their Yearbook After 20 Years

By Jamie Curtis

Students attempt to revive Mansfield University's yearbook, The Carontawan, after 20 years.

Carontawan is a Native American term meaning "Little town on a hill." The yearbook was first published in 1918, and the last edition was published in 1990.

This past summer, Mansfield University students Rebecca Ingalls and Angela Martinez decided they would try to revive the yearbook. "My friend Angie and I had been hanging out and talking about how our breaks were going. We were on summer break, and I mentioned that while I was at Alumni Weekend, a woman had asked me to copy a photo of her and one of her sorority sisters. They were so excited because they had recreated the exact same photo they had taken years ago [a then and now photo]," Ingalls said. "Angie and I thought how cool it would be to look back and see what Mansfield was like. Then we decided that it would be awesome to bring back the Carontawan." And they took a step in that direction.

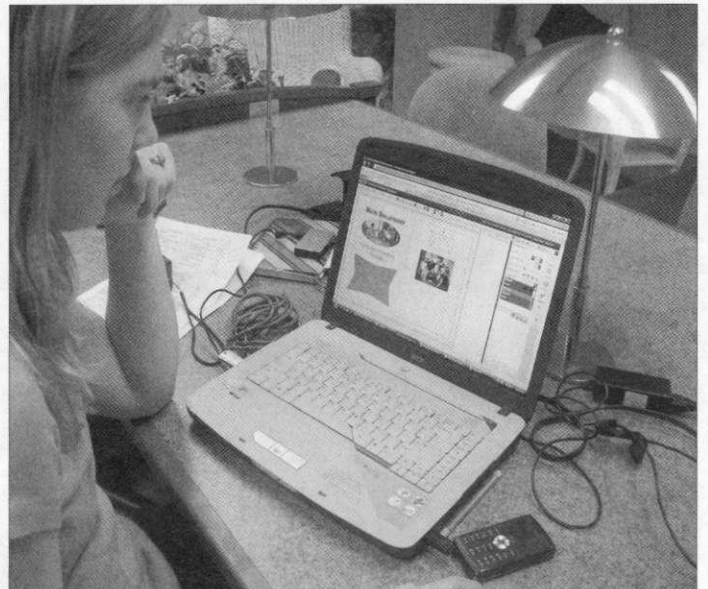
The Carontawan Mountie Yearbook is now a campus organization. "Establishing the organization has been a growing experience for me. It has increased my leadership skills. Being in charge of an organization will teach anyone to have more responsibility," Martinez said. "In my case, I have learned how to communicate with people in administrative roles and in the community." Martinez is vice president of the Carontawan Mountie yearbook. Ingalls is president.

Dr. Michele Moore is the faculty advisor for the Carontawan. "I was photography editor for my high school yearbook, so I had some background knowledge of how a yearbook is developed," Moore said. "I am also the faculty advisor for Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), so I had an idea of what I'd be facing, taking on the role of faculty advisor for the yearbook. I enjoy working with students outside of the classroom."

The organization has about 20 members. The pages are designed through a program on the Jostens web site called "Yearbook Avenue Designer." It allows staff members to design the pages at their leisure and from anywhere.

Moore also noted how technology has changed the way things are done. She mentioned that twenty years ago everything had to be laid out on large sheets of graph paper. "Everything was planned out right down to where the photos and text would go. The process was time consuming. We had to go through a one week training course [for yearbook design]," Moore said. "Now a local Jostens representative comes and trains students for a couple of hours on how to use the web site."

There are several theories as to why the Carontawan ceased to exist. Mr. Joseph Maresco, who was vice president for student affairs in 1990 and the faculty advisor for the Carontawan, believed that cost for students, lack of staff interest, changes in technology and loss of interest in the campus community are what drove the



Department Editor, Lanae Richardson, is at her computer. She is designing a yearbook page for the math department.

Carontawan into extinction.

"When I arrived at Mansfield, every student received a yearbook for free. Then it was just seniors who got them for free. By 1990, all students had to pay for a book at the cost of \$10. It may not seem like a lot of money by today's standards, but it was back then," Maresco said. "We were trying to print an edition in 1991, but only received three book orders. The staff decided that it was a losing battle..." Maresco also mentions that there were a few attempts by students to resurrect the yearbook, but none of those were successful.

"The campus needs history of what's going on in print. There isn't anything like a yearbook that captures a snapshot of the academic year," Maresco said. "There's been a void for the past 20 years. It will allow students in future years to look back at their time at Mansfield and reminisce... I hope that it stays a long term publication at

Mansfield University."

The Carontawan – Mountie yearbook has been facing difficulty with generating interest for a yearbook in the campus community, and as a result, this year's Carontawan publication may be delayed, or will not be the hard copy publication initially planned for.

"We are experiencing a lack of sales and general interest in the yearbook. We feel this may be due to the financial strains put upon students this year...For this reason we are postponing yearbook production. By the end of the year we hope to have some sort of publication, but it will not be the full length book on which we originally planned. We are currently exploring our options and considering producing some sort of digital year-in-review, then building upon that in future years until we gain enough support from the campus to create a full blown yearbook," Martinez said. ✱

Dr. Judith Sornberger Shares Her *Passion* for Women's Studies

By Bradley Lee

Dr. Judith Sornberger has been a Mansfield University faculty member for 20 years.

She is passionate about women's issues. "I was hired to help start a Women's Studies program. That first year I formed a committee of other faculty interested in creating the program and we came up with a proposal. Once it was accepted at the state system level, we had a minor in Women's Studies and the over-arching program. There had already been a course in Women's History being taught here. I developed the Introduction to Women's Studies course, and several other faculty developed courses. The program has been up and running now for nineteen years. Some of the other first courses were: Women and Psychology, Gender and Anthropology, Women and Communications, Women's Health Issues, Women and Art, and Women's Literature. A number of courses have been added since then: a Women's Studies seminar whose focus changes from year to year (the Women & Spirituality course is the offering this year); the History of Witches; and Women and Pop Culture. We also include courses for electives for which at least half of the content is by and/or about women. The program is always looking for new courses," Sornberger said.

"Anyone who has taken a Women's Studies course with Dr. Sornberger will describe to you just how passionate she is about the materials she teaches. "My study in Women's Studies was largely an individual pursuit. There was no such program when I was a student, at least not at my university. I did take a Women's studies and Poetry course as a nontraditional undergraduate, which immersed me in the work of poems like Marge Piercy and Adrienne Rich. It affirmed that what I was doing as a poet and a woman was important. One of the comprehensive examinations I chose to take in grad school was in Women's Literature, which gave me a good grounding in women writers. But, for the most part, my study of women's issues was a passionate personal pursuit. It didn't change me as a person as much as it helped me to understand why inequality persists. It was as though I finally had facts to back up many of the vague suspicions I'd been harboring since childhood, especially about why women were supposed to behave

in certain ways."

Ever wondered where you might get answers to questions on this subject? Dr. Sornberger appears to have the answers. "Women's Studies as a discipline has been around since the late seventies. The birth of the discipline arose from the Second Wave of the feminist movement in the sixties and seventies. The Second Wave of the women's movement was one of several social justice movements—along with the anti-war movement and the Civil Rights movement—that rose out of the social unrest of that time. While many women were dissatisfied with lives as second class citizens, books like Betty Friedan's *The Female Eunuch* woke women up to their oppression and made them want to do something about it. Grass-roots gatherings like the women's consciousness raising groups that met informally in women's homes also contributed heavily to the beginning of this movement," Sornberger said.

"My study of women's issues was a passionate personal pursuit."

- Judith Sornberger

Did you know that taking a Women's Studies course could be beneficial to not only women, but men? And, did you know that taking a Women's Studies course isn't only beneficial to women and men, but to any group who has been oppressed?

"Intro to Women's Studies introduces students to the basics of oppression. It isn't only women who are oppressed in our culture—traditionally or now. People are also oppressed because of social status, sexuality, race, etc. Understanding that these oppressions exist and why they have persisted is the first step in helping to stop them... the intro course focuses on issues of gender that affect both women and men. For instance, women are raised to be compliant, silent, and to identify their primary sphere as the home, while men are socialized to be competitive, vocal, strong, and to see themselves as the primary breadwinners in a family. Both of these sets of roles can be oppressive. Neither boys nor girls get a chance to develop into the true persons they are, as long as they are being shoved

into gender expectations from day one. Also, many important pages of history have been left out of most students' educations. This course demonstrates the importance of the suffrage movement. Many students, both female and male, report that they will never fail to vote after learning how hard one segment of our population worked over decades to get the vote. Finally, we are all going to need to work together--both in the workplace and as citizens of our communities and our world. It is absolutely crucial that we understand more about each other. Most of our social institutions have been based on traditionally male values. Learning about what women can and do bring to the table can help us all to achieve more to better our own lives and our world. Women's Studies benefits many more students than the ones who choose to minor in it. The majority of the students who take our courses, in fact, are not majoring [in Women's Studies]. Therefore, the program offers a strong background in women's history, perspectives and contributions to the entire campus. Raising awareness about women's issues and about equality in general helps to create a more civil campus and world environment," Sornberger said.

Although Women's Studies isn't offered as a major at Mansfield University, it is elsewhere. "I came here from the University of Colorado-Boulder where [Women's Studies] was a major. Some of the students double-majored in Women's Studies and another field. However, many did not. As we know, most students do not end up working in their major field within ten years of their graduation. That is why it is so important for students to earn a strong liberal arts degree while here. A bachelor's degree in Women's Studies would definitely do that. Also, employers are always looking for that something extra that sets a student apart. A woman or a man with a Women's Studies degree (or a minor, for that matter) can show sensitivity to issues of equality and communication that would be valuable in almost any field. I think that students in Psychology, Social Work, Business, and Public Relations would be especially great candidates for a double major, or at least for a minor in Women's Studies," Sornberger said. ✱



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